

REVIEW

The Illustrated Flora of Illinois. Ferns. 2nd ed., by Robert Mohlenbrock. Southern Illinois University Press, Carbondale. 240 pp. \$39.95.

Local, illustrated fern floras provide a wonderful service by providing a handy, complete, and easy to use reference without the “chatter” of species not found in the area. These floras are designed to provide a streamlined, comprehensive view of the pteridoflora. Without a doubt, Mohlenbrock’s first edition accomplished this goal and more. The Introduction provided a brief account of the history of Illinois fern collecting, a brief account of pteridophyte morphology, and a very nice discussion of habitats. Add to this the combination of functional keys, state maps, detailed species accounts, and excellent illustrations and you have a recipe for success. Having said this, the second edition is a considerable disappointment. All of the new material is packed into a 45 page Appendix. The new taxa are keyed out separately from all the rest in a section entitled “Key to the Additional Ferns of Illinois”. For a plant not covered in the first edition, therefore, one must first attempt to identify the species in the main part of the book and then go to the Appendix and start over.

Much of the Appendix consists of a “do-it-yourself” editing experience, in which you look at information provided and then go into the main part of the text and fix it up. As an example, on page 180 you are told that the name for *Lycopodium porophilum* Lloyd & Underwood (see p. 24) is *Huperzia porophila* (Lloyd & Underwood) Holub and that you should add dots to the map on page 26 to include Brown, Carroll, Cumberland, JoDavies, Johnson, Lake, Lee, Randolph, Rock Island, Schuyler, and Will counties. To make things worse, for any genus in which new taxa have been added there are new keys that should be utilized, so please make note not to use the ones in the first 173 pages. The new illustrations while adequate for identification, in most cases lack the detail and precision of those found in the previous edition. While the second edition does provide up to date information, it seems unreasonable in this day of electronic wizardry that the changes found in the Appendix could not have been incorporated into a cohesive whole *before* publication.—R. JAMES HICKEY, Botany Department, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio 45056.